

BUPRESTIS

A semi-annual newsletter devoted to the dissemination of information about buprestids and students of this group

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Dear friends,

At the end of this year we will hold our next meeting. Please give Chuck as soon as possible your informations that he can prepare all necessary.

The new deadline for the next issue of BUPRESTIS will be 15. June 1999.

Best wishes for this year, good health and always the right idea for your work.

Hans Mühle
Editor

A. RESEARCH ACTIVITIES AND INTERESTS

Shelley BARKER writes: I am continuing research on *Cisseis* at the South Australian Museum. I have borrowed most of the material held by the eastern Australian Museums and I am in the process of examining types, most of which are held in European Museums. I have seen about one third of the available holotypes. Unfortunately some of the oldest known species are proving to be the most difficult to identify. So far I am unable to confirm the identities of *Cisseis cupripennis* Guerin and *Cisseis maculata* (L.&G.). I have also found that the work of KERREMANS, BLACKBURN and CARTER on *Cisseis* was very poor. They were responsible for most of the synonyms I've identified so far. KERREMANS obviously didn't realise that many *Cisseis* species are sexually dimorphic, most likely because he didn't have access to long series but the same excuse can't be made for CARTER.

B. SPECIES WANTED FOR RESEARCH OR EXCHANGE

C. REQUESTS FOR LITERATURE

D. FORUM

Shelley BARKER fully supports the remarks made by Chuck BELLAMY in the last issue of BUPRESTIS about the new provisions in the Code concerning deposition of types in public institutions. He also supports his remarks about types remaining in the country of origin, anyone would who has been plagued like Australian researchers are by having the majority of old types inaccessible. This situation makes it extremely difficult to revise or identify old species.

Chuck BELLAMY contributed with the following lines to our newsletter:

BUPRESTIS on the World Wide Web

Thanks to Hans MÜHLE providing me with electronic copy of our newsletter back to February 1991, I have been able to list back issues of our more recent reports. This will serve as an archive and help new members understand some of the debates and ideas the group has considered, at least during this decade.

www-tm.up.ac.za/coleop/bupnltr.htm

Announcements on the 2nd International Symposium on Buprestidae have been mailed to the following colleagues, trying to cover those that I have some feeling might attend or that I have an active correspondence with or at least one colleague per country or region:

ARNAIZ RUIZ, BURGOS, CURLETTI, DOZIER, ENDO, GIANASSO, HESPENHEIDE, HOLYNSKI, LANDER, MAGNANI, MOORE RODRIGUEZ, NELSON, NIEHUIS, NYLANDER, OHMOMO, PENG, PETERSON, RUICĂNESCU, SAINVAL, SAKALIAN, SCHMITZ, TASSI, TEZCAN, VELTEN, VERITY, WALTERS, WELLSO, WILLIAMS.

Others who have e-mail and connections to the WWW have been notified of the new pages for the meeting on the web: BÍLY, DAVIDSON, GOTTWALD, HANLON, JENDEK, KALASHIAN, KUBAN, LEVEY, MACRAE, VOLKOVITSH, WESTCOTT.

If I have overlooked you, I apologise. Please contact me (bellamy@tm.up.ac.za) for a hard copy of the announcement or visit the following web site:

The new pages on the WWW: www-tm.up.ac.za/coleop/bupmeet.htm

N. B. ANYONE WHO IS INTERESTED IN ATTENDING THIS MEETING BUT FINDS THE SUGGESTED DATES WILL MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE, PLEASE SUGGEST ALTERNATIVE DATES AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE, BUT KEEP IN MIND THAT WE DO NOT WANT TO HAVE THE MEETINGS

CLOSE TO THE VERY BUSY CHRISTMAS TRAVEL PERIOD OF MID-DECEMBER TO EARLY JANUARY. INSTEAD OF NOVEMBER, WE COULD MEET IN LATE JANUARY WHICH WOULD STILL ALLOW THE OPPORTUNITY FOR FIELD TRIPS.

DNA Project

The accumulation of fresh specimens for an eventual DNA/molecular systematics project progressed very well in 1998. Due to my own good fortune and travel to Australia, North America and in South Africa and due to the gracious contributions by Svata BÍLÝ in Europe and Ceram, Stephan GOTTWALD in Mexico, Henry HESPENHEIDE in Costa Rica and Panama, Mark GOLDING and Allen SUNDHOLM in Australia and Rick WESTCOTT in the U.S., I have examples of all subfamilies, all tribes except Julodimorphini, Cylindromorphini and Aphanisticini. If anyone can help provide fresh examples of taxa from those tribes, or from any of the following subtribes (Pristiperina, Paratassina, Lamprocheilina, Pseudoperotina, Haplotrinchina, Amyiina, Amorphosternternina, Geraliina, Cylindromorphoidina), I would be extremely grateful. I can send small cryovials and instructions on how to properly attend to the specimens.

For background information, please visit: www-tm.up.ac.za/coleop/bupdna.htm

World Catalogue Update

The catalogue project is moving along at a reasonably good pace.

Contributions on missing or incomplete literature have been provided recently by Edo JENDEK, including a listing of all buprestid papers from the Zoological Record for the last 20 years.

Possibly a first volume of approximately 400 pages could be ready next year.

A Buprestid Journal?

We've discussed it several times in the past, but why shouldn't we have a journal dedicated to Buprestidae? I have found a printer in Pretoria that could make this a reality, providing that there are enough of you to subscribe just to get us started. If we could get an initial subscription of approximately 30 people at US\$30/year, we could produce a single volume per year. More subscribers would allow either cheaper annual subscriptions or a second volume. Once it gets going and we get institutional (museum and university libraries) subscribers, we could add more issues or larger issues. The cost of subscription would include one paper published per year without page charges and the postage costs of mailing the journal to subscribers. To start with, colour illustrations would be an extra cost. The journal would be refereed, supervised by an editorial board with a rotating editorship, the format would be uniform and consistent and multilingual, for those who would prefer to submit papers in languages other than English.

Perhaps the beginning of a formal International Society for the Study of Buprestidae with annual dues to include the cost of the journal is worth considering too. The newsletter could be expanded and part of the annual subscription, which has till now, been paid for completely by Hans.

I will use this local printer to produce the Proceedings for the meetings here next year, and this could be our inauguration of a new journal. However, I will need to have your comments or statements of interest to move forward on this plan.

Visit to Paris

My wife and I stopped in Paris enroute to California for the holidays. I found, if you can believe, greater disorganisation, than during my two previous visits. For example, after having organised the multitude of undescribed Madagascan Coraebini during my 1995 and 1996 stops, some of the specimens that I wanted to borrow and start with were not where I had left them. The museum had acquired new steel cabinets which now

house the majority of the buprestid collections.

Patrick BLEUZEN visited and I was able to finally meet him and spend a short time discussing our mutual projects. I was very impressed to see his pictorial files and learn that he hopes to complete his projects on *Actenodes* and its relatives and *Colobogaster* during the next year or so. I would urge all who still have unidentified material of Actenodini especially to consider sending these to Patrick to make his publications as rich with specimens as possible. He has a new address which should be published in the newsletter soon.

Despite not finding all that I wanted for my projects, I was able to locate all or almost all type specimens that had been requested by other colleagues: Gianfranco CURLETTI, Sibylle GUSSMANN, Roman HOLYNSKI, and Rick WESTCOTT.

It would be wonderful if the Paris collection could be organised as most modern collections are, so that specimens would be easy to locate by any visitors. However, considering the size of the collection and current state of disorganisation, it will take a great effort by many of us who are able to visit to ever see this happen.

Sadahiro OHMOMO has sent a short note: Koyo AKIYAMA died in the morning of 10. November 1998. He was 43 years old.

He will do his best to take care of Akiyama's estate.

Miguel ALONSO-ZARAZAGA sent the following new:

My master and friend, Dr Antonio COBOS SANCHEZ passed away on 16th December 1998 in Almeria. He was born on 25 July 1922 in Malaga, so he was 76. He suffered in the last years three severe brain attacks, the last one being deadly. His wife Maria, three children and several grandchildren survive him.

Being his only living disciple, I plan to present a longer necrological notice to Graellsia, which will be issued at the end of the year 1999. Since he did not publish anything after 1990, you will find that there is a complete list of his contributions to science in the pages 175-186 of the book: Martin ALBALADEJO, C. 1994. Bibliografia entomologica de autores españoles (1758-1990). En: RAMOS, M. A. (Ed.). Documentos Fauna Iberica, 1, 823 pp. Museo Nacional de Ciencias Naturales, CSIC.

Gianfranco SAMA well known specialist for cerambycids sent a long comment on the decision of the ICZN concerning the deposition of holotypes:

Dear colleagues,

I got by my friend G. MAGNANI the last BUPRESTIS and, even that I don't publish on Buprestidae (but working on Cerambycidae I find a lot of them) I wish talk about the question "holotypes in public collections".

Seems to me that the Commission is totally over the reality; in the three last editions of the Code they made ever bigger mistakes introducing rules absolutely harmful for the science, but with the last proposal they reached the top of the idiocy. It is also surprising that somebody as Ted MACRAE doesn't understand it.

First of all I think that nobody would decide about the property of private things. It is true that nothing in Nature can be private (or everything must be public), but nobody can oblige me to present to a Museum what I found through my own financial sacrifices and physical efforts. I totally agree to give paratypes or specimens (and I do it) of new taxa to a public institution of the country where I collected them, especially when there was a collaboration during my researches. But a holotype is out of question; it must be preserved in my collection, because, working on taxonomy, I must use it continuously for comparison, especially if it is a unique type. Moreover, as an amateur, I use my holidays and my money for my collecting trips, I spend my time for preparation, my money for literature, publishing my papers and sending reprints; and finally somebody would legally robber the best results of my researches. Well, with this conditions I could decide to end my work on

systematic, and, like me, a lot of good systematics will do the same. We know that, at least in Europe, the most part of the best revisions of insects (but also of many other groups of animals) are written by not professional entomologists.

MACRAE knows his reality and he trusts his museums, but he must understand that the code will be valid for all the world (including countries where a trusted museum often doesn't exist) and for the future.

Regarding the "guaranteeing the preservation of valuable specimens for all future workers" I want to propose some examples or items of discussion and I hope that Mr. Ted MACRAE will read it:

1. This year I was in Jordan, where I saw the entomological collections and, in collaboration with the University of this country and the Royal Society for the Conservation of the Nature, but totally at my charges, I collected new species of Cerambycidae. After the description, I shall send paratypes for the university collections (where anybody, students and *Anthrenus* included, can lay hands on). I can imagine the bad end of the holotype of a new species described by a Jordan entomologist and deposited in this Museum. I can also imagine which bad end will have the request of a specialist who needs this holotype for his studies. This example is valid, of course, for any museum of similar countries.
2. I will suggest the Commission (or MACRAE) to ask for the loan of types of Russian entomologists like MÉNÉTRIES, JAKOVLEV, SUVOROV, PLAVILSTSHIKOV, a.s.o., or the types of new described species, also recently, by entomologists from Iraq, Iran or Turkey; or also to ask for one of my holotypes the little museum of my city (eternally without funds and staff) if in the future I would decide to deposit them there.
3. During the first years of my entomological activity, collaborating with the Museum of Natural History of Verona, where the curator was an entomologist, I deposited there the holotypes of some new species of Cerambycidae discovered during my trips to southern Italy. Some years later the curator has retired and he was replaced by a geologist who stopped any collaboration with private workers on entomology. From that time I'm unable not only to receive, but also to see my types and I'm not sure that they still exist.
4. Museum Prague - I recently visited the collections in order to study type materials; I remarked that the most representative species of Cerambycidae and the rarest ones are lost (robbed, and replaced by common species).
5. Museum Paris - As, after the death of my colleague A. VILLIERS, curator of the cerambycid collection, I did not manage to get by post types material, I visited during the last eight years some times this very important museum for studying the types of some old authors. Each time I have taken some types to study them at home and I returned those which I had the previous time. The problem is that, because of even more lacking of staff, the types returned after a loan are not put back into the respective boxes; four years ago when I was the last time in the museum, I found the box with a lot of types returned by me some years before, stored and forgotten on a shelf, together with many other empty and full boxes. Probably this box is still there, because the last week I got a letter from a French entomologist (not the curator) soliciting the restitution to the museum of a type I brought back five years ago!
6. Last year in Prague I got an absolutely fantastic cerambycid beetle (a single specimen) collected in Syria by a Czech friend for study. It was, of course, a new species and I would describe it. My friend agreed, but only if the holotype would remain in his collection. I described it, of course, with a nice colour photograph in the paper and all the world will know the new species, also in the future, even if preserved in a private collection. What will I do in future? Not describe the new species because the holotype must be deposited in a museum or describe it? Following the new rules, this new species would remain unknown to science.

This is the situation with the most part of public institutions which have only little money and only some few staff for preserving the collections. It seems that the Commission (and MACRAE too) lives on the moon.

Now, who will decide which dimension must have the museum to which I must give my holotypes? Any museum or only an important museum? As we saw, also the most important museums have big difficulties, but for the small ones the situation is tragic. Now, I must entrust as a present my holotypes to an institution clearly unable to preserve them?

I think that the best way for a specialist is to find a successor (as I'm doing), a young man to whom he entrusts his experience and his knowledge and who will continue his studies using his collection and library during his live and after his death.

Sincerely yours G. S.

E. PUBLICATIONS

Akiyama, K. & S. Ohmomo (1998) A new subspecies of *Chrysochroa fulgidissima* (Schönherr, 1817) from Otoko-jima, Danjo Iss., Nagasaki Pref., Kyushu, Japan (Bup., Col.). Gekkan-Mushi 333:2-4

Alexeev, A. V. (1998) On the subgeneric classification of buprestids of the genus *Agrilus* Curtis (Col., Bup.) of the Palaearctic fauna. Entomological Journal 77: 367-383 (in Russian)

Barbalat, S. (1998) Importance of forest structure on four beetle families (Col: Buprestidae, Cerambycidae, Lucanidae and phytophagous Scarabaeidae) in the Areuse gorges (Neuchâtel, Switzerland). Revue suisse de zoologie 105: 569-580

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Barbalat, S., P. Junod & M. Plachta (1997) Sylviculture de deux essences héliophiles et diversité de l'entomofaune. Schweizer Zeitschrift für Forstwesen 148:789-807

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Kalashian, M. Yu. & M. G. Volkovitsh (1997) Two new species of the buprestid genus *Sphenoptera* Solier (Col., Bup.) from Middle Asia and Kazakhstan. Entomological Review 76:

Kletecka, Z. (1998) To the bionomy of *Dicerca amphibia* Mars. and of accompanying species of jewel beetles (Col.: Bup.) on populars Populus sp. div. in eastern Ukraine. Jewel Beetles 7:19-29

Magnani, G. & F. Izzillo (1998) *Anthaxia baiocchii* n. sp. un nuovo taxon della biocenosi del cedro in Libano. Lambillionea 98:335-338

Murria Beltran, F. & Á. Murria Beltran (1998) Contribución al estudio de *Aurigena unicolor* (Olivier, 1790) en Aragón (Col., Bup.). Boletín de la Sociedad Entomologica Aragonesa. N°. 22:7-8

Murria Beltran, F. & Á. Murria Beltran (1998) Capturas accidentales de bupréstidos en Aragón (Col., Bup.). Boletín de la Sociedad Entomologica Aragonesa. N°. 22:30

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Niehuis, M. (1998) *Anthaxia millefolii polychloros* Ab. - Wiederfunde am Mittelrhein. Mitteilungen der Arbeitsgemeinschaft Rheinischer Koleopterologen 8: 101-107

Nylander, U. (1998) A new subspecies of *Calodema* from Garaina, Papua New Guinea. (Col.: Bup.). Jewel Beetles 7:16-17

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Tozlu, G. & H. **Özbek** (1998) *Sphenoptera (Chrysoblemma) artemisiae* Reitter, 1889 (Col.: Bup.), a new record for the Turkish fauna. Zoology in the Middle East 16: 107-110

Volkovitsh, M. G. & M. Yu., **Kalashian** (1998) A new species of *Sphaerobothris* Semenov & Richter from Armenia (Coleoptera, Buprestidae). Zoosystematica Rossica, 7: 307-310.

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